no time to think of a long-range program of action to stop the incipient erosion of their popularity.

Perhaps our greatest error was in timing. It was later than we thought. Only a rapid convocation of the Constituent Assembly could have saved democracy in Russia. The leaders of the majority in the Soviet had insisted on accelerating elections and even obtained the promise of the government that the Constituent Assembly would convene in September, but this was a side-show in the great game of politics, and the Cadets, for whom postponement of the election was the main issue, could easily maneuver the government into breaking this promise.

WAR AND PEACE

New faces appeared in the Tauride Palace—delegates from foreign Socialist parties representing also the Allied and neutral governments. Officially, they came to bring good wishes to Russian workers and to learn more about conditions in Russia, but the most influential among them, such as Arthur Henderson of Great Britain and Albert Thomas of France, came to persuade the Soviet leaders to support the war effort of the Allies more effectively. They recognized the Soviet's principle of a just peace but insisted that such a peace must provide for the return of Alsace-Lorraine to France and the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires. They described the damage inflicted by German aggression on the peoples of Belgium and France and pleaded that reparations were necessary to a just war settlement. Addressing the full session of the Soviet, they expressed their admiration of the Russian revolution but, in speaking before the Executive Committee, they made no secret of the fact that their thinking on war aims differed from the Soviet's.

Some delegates wished to get in touch with Russian workers and soldiers. I took them to meetings in factories and barracks. Once I took a French deputy to the night meeting of a rioting regiment. He found the situation similar to some phase of the French Revolution and kept saying on the way back, "Now I understand, I understand everything." Personally, I doubted whether he had understood anything of our problems.

Neither the workers nor the soldiers manifested much enthusiasm for the foreign delegates. On the other hand, the delegates were only moderately interested in our plan for an international Socialist conference and politely rejected our suggestion that *all* Socialist parties should be invited and that the majority Socialist parties should break with their governments. They also refused to pledge in advance to